

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday evenings at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition ... C-130 modifications; Grim Reaper F-15 surge; Incirlik, Turkey garbage contract and Spangdahlem fish release.



News briefs

MPF closures

The military personnel flight closes at 2:45 p.m. today for a commander's call and at 2 p.m. July 14 for the 52nd Mission Support Squadron change of command ceremony.

For more information or to ask about emergency service during the closures, call 1st Lt. Karie Pahia at 452-4009.

Assuming command

Maj. Scott Kiser assumes command of the 52nd Contracting Squadron during a ceremony at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the squadron building on the Bitburg Annex.

Kiser replaces retiring Lt. Col. Robin Ferrier. The major comes to the Eifel from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where he was the advanced reconnaissance development program chief.

Ed center testing

No testing takes place in the education center July 24-28 because of a shortage of test facilitators.

For more information, call Gregory Willis, education services specialist, at 452-6335.

Reenlistment eligibility

Air Force officials found conflicting guidance between two different instructions concerning reenlistment eligibility for people on the Weight and Body Fat Management Program.

The conflict is between Air Force Instructions 40-502, "The Weight and Body Fat Management Program," and 36-2606, "Reenlistment in the United States Air Force."

Specifically, the reenlistment instruction states people are ineligible to reenlist during Phase I of the program. This is inconsistent with the instructions in AFI 40-502, which states people are ineligible to reenlist at the three-month exercise and dietary period before entering into Phase I.

As it turns out, AFI 40-502 is correct, and the reenlistment instructions will be changed to reflect people are ineligible to reenlist beginning with entry into the three-month exercise and dietary period.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Shannon Yarbrough in the military personnel flight at 452-7876.

ALS ceremonies

All Airman Leadership School graduation ceremonies are paid events and people attending must buy their meals.

The ALS staff needs people to make reservations through them and pay no later

See Briefs, Page 2

Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 24

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

July 7, 2000



Airman 1st Class Michelle S. Roquid

Speeding up the process

Airman William Gentry, 52nd Communications Squadron, helps a customer mail packages at the finance window. Summer is traditionally a busy time of the year for military post offices because of the increased number of military family moves. Some ways to help make post office visits quicker are to keep packages below maximum size requirements and fill out customs declaration forms in advance. Customers are also reminded to follow postal regulations by not attempting to use a personal post office box for business uses. Read "Avoid post office blues by knowing rules" on page 4 for details.

Online software courses offer training at own convenience

By Dr. Tim Mucklow
Air Force Communications Agency

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Education enables people to respond to challenges by preparing them for the future. The Air Force has taken initiatives to deliver training and education more quickly, to more people, for fewer dollars. Air Force people now have access to more than 1,000 Information Technology courses on line, thanks to the opening of the Air Force Computer Based Training System's Central Site.

While at work, on temporary duty or at home, military members and civilians can take courses on their computers in such areas as specialized technical skills, basic business

applications, software programming and world wide web administration. Examples of courses are UNIX, Windows NT, Oracle, Microsoft Office and Netscape Navigator.

Getting started

The Computer Based Training Initiative 2000 uses the CBT System to help the workforce deal with rapidly changing technology to conduct daily business.

Phase one of the program established the central site, hosted by the Defense Information Systems Agency. It

See Training, Page 2

Absentee voting help easy to find

By Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Election Day, Nov. 7, is less than five months away. That may seem like a long time, but voting officials recommend absentee voters request ballots 45 days in advance. Even earlier if they haven't yet registered to vote in their home district.

Officials with the Federal Voting Assistance Program put a tremendous

amount of information about absentee voting on the Internet.

Specific links military voters may find helpful include:

How To Do It: Vote Absentee!

This page consists of an electronic version of the useful pamphlet "How To Do It — Vote Absentee." The pamphlet answers such questions as: Can I vote

absentee? How do I apply for an absentee ballot?

The pamphlet is also available through unit and installation voting assistance offices. View the pamphlet on the Web site at www.fvap.ncr.gov/publications/howto- (no hyphen) info.

See Voting, Page 2

Training

Continued from Page 1

includes an IT course software library, help desk, user registration service and metrics collection capability.

Phase two, now under way, will place courseware and software at base-level network control centers to minimize Internet traffic between users and the central site.

All users can access courses through the central site now. After phase two, on-base users will access courses through their local NCC, using locally-staged courseware and utility software. Off-base users will continue to access courses through the central site, and can either take the courses on line or download them to their PCs.

Users must first register from a computer with a ".gov" or ".mil" address, and then get a password to connect from any terminal with Internet access.

Grading

Progress reports on user metrics will be maintained at the central site, with local data being passed during off-

peak hours. Force planners will use metrics to track proficiency progress and manage their programs.

The Air Force CBT System provides training that meets the knowledge-level requirements for certifying network professionals explained in AF Instruction 33-115, Volume 2, Licensing Network Users and Certifying Network Professionals. Air Education and Training Command is exploring ways to integrate CBT into curricula to get the most value from in-residence training programs.

Proprietary software is needed to take courses in either download or liveplay modes. Users should check with their local workgroup manager for a customized version. The software can also be downloaded from the central site's "Getting Started Off Base" option, in the courseware menu.

Filling a need

The CBT System uses SmartForce (formerly CBT Systems, Inc.) commercial off-the-shelf courseware. It offers flexible, adaptable training in the face of growing TDY costs and decreases in funding for in-residence training.

The CBT System is managed by the Air Force Communications Agency's Training Management Branch at Scott AFB. The branch was also created to investigate other training possibilities.

"One of our primary goals . . . is to find innovative ways of providing better, faster and cheaper service to the Air Force," said retired Lt. Gen. William J. Donahue, then commander of the Air Force Communications and Information Center, and Air Force director of Communications and Information, at the virtual ribbon-cutting for the central site. "This is a prime example of how we are doing it."

AFCA looked at warfighter requirements and developed a solution to provide cost-effective IT training whenever and wherever needed for a customer base of more than 500,000 users.

Details are available at the AFCA CBT homepage or by contacting the AFCA Training Management Branch, DSN 576-2815 or (618) 256-2815. (Air Force Print News)

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

than the provided RSVP date for each ceremony.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Steven Barnes Sr., ALS flight chief, at 453-7669.

Enlisted essay entries

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The U.S. Naval Institute announces the start of its fifth annual Enlisted Essay Contest.

Essays may address any subject related to military service. Competition is open to active duty, Reserve, and retired enlisted members of any service branch and country. All entries must be postmarked on or before Sept. 1.

The annual competition awards cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 to the top three essays and others may be purchased for publication.

See the February 2000 issue of "Proceedings" magazine to gauge the style and content of the winning essays from 1999.

For a complete list of all Naval Institute-sponsored essay and photo contests, log on to the Naval Institute's web site, www.usni.org.

Group reunion

Members of the 52nd Fighter Group, World War I era, hold its first reunion Sept. 21-23 near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Retired Col. Thomas Thacker invites members of the 52nd Fighter Wing who'll be in the area to the reunion. Most reunion activities take place at the

Air Force Museum on base beginning at 11 a.m. Sept. 22. 7233 for details.

PINS improves pay system

DENVER — Defense Finance and Accounting Service activates its improved automated telephone Military Pay Line service in August. Air Force active duty and Reserve members need a personal identification number, or PIN, to access the system.

DFAS will mail PINs to Air Force active duty and Reserve members in July. The mailing will go to members' leave and earnings statement addresses. Air Force active duty and Reserve members should ensure their leave and earnings statement addresses are current to avoid delay in receiving Military Pay Line personal identification numbers.

PINs used for the current Air Force Pay Call system (800-755-7413) will work with the new system. Service members who don't have a current PIN will have one issued for the new Military Pay Line. Service members can update their addresses at the base finance office.

Safety camp

Eifel Safety Camp 2000 is 8 a.m. to noon July 18-21. The free event is designed to heighten children's safety awareness through games and activities.

Register at the wing safety office, building 23. Enrollment is open to children of military members and Department of Defense employees, ages 5-12. Children enrolled in Services Youth Programs are automatically enrolled.

Volunteers are also needed for various camp events.

Call Staff Sgt. Shelly Barton at 452-

Meeting

The Air Force Sergeant's Association Spangdahlem Chapter 1681 will hold its monthly membership meeting 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Spangdahlem Community Activities Center. Lunch will be provided.

Call Master Sgt. David Johnson at 453-3345 for details.

Look for coupons

Griesheim, Germany - The Stars and Stripes features a special Military Lifestyle Couponer insert in the Wednesday, 12 July paper offering over \$15 in money saving coupons.

All food coupons can be redeemed at local Defense Commissary Agencies (DeCA), and toiletry and laundry coupons are redeemable at DeCA or the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES).

Call Mandy Smith-Nethercott DSN 349-8357 or commercial (49) 06155-601357 for more information.

Spouse tuition assistance

Applications for Term I, Aug. 21-Oct. 13, Spouse Tuition Assistance are available at the base education center, building 192 and the Bitburg Annex post office. Deadline for application receipt is July 28. Call the education center at 452-6063 for visit the office for more information.

Voting

Continued from Page 1

Federal Post Card Application

This site was added to make voting easier for those without immediate voting assistance office access. Visit the Web site at [www.fvap.ncr.gov/-\(no hyphen\)othertools/onlinefpca](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov/-(no+hyphen)othertools/onlinefpca).

Toll-free voting assistance

This page includes toll-free phone numbers to the Federal Voting Assistance Program from nearly 60 different countries.

The site is available at www.fvap.ncr.gov/tollfree2000.

A voter registration campaign takes place throughout the 52nd Fighter Wing Aug. 7-11. The goal, according to Maj. Dana Howard, current wing voting officer, is 100 percent contact of all active-duty members. In addition, unit voting representatives can assist active-duty members and family members.

Unit voting representatives:

■ 52nd Operations Group, Master Sgt. Tonya Pineda at 452-6805.

■ 52nd Support Group, 2nd Lt. Chris Harper at 452-6936.

■ 52nd Logistics Group, Senior Master Sgt. Dave Westwood at 452-6070.

■ 52nd Medical Group, Capt. Tammy Karamarinov at 452-8157.

■ 52nd Comptroller Squadron, 2nd Lt. Jane Perez at 452-6730.

■ Howard at 453-3511 (she will soon be replaced by Capt. Nancy T. Williams at 453-3160). (DOD voting information by Air Force Print News)

Quality assurance honors maintainer professionalism

By Master Sgt. Joseph Schmucker
52nd Operations Group
quality assurance superintendent

People within the 52nd Operations and Logistics Groups who perform maintenance on A-10 and F-16 aircraft and related equipment routinely undergo evaluations to ensure the wing's aircraft and equipment are maintained to the highest standards.

The operations and logistics group quality assurance section performs more than 1,000 inspections monthly, evaluating personal proficiency, equipment status, aircraft condition and maintenance programs.

Personal evaluations focus on troubleshooting, repair and routine maintenance on aircraft and equipment. Quality verification inspections validate maintenance performed on a specific aircraft system or piece of equipment. Special inspections ensure equipment is serviceable and ready to deploy or be used for training missions.

The ultimate goal is to increase reliability and maintainability of the wing's fleet of aircraft and equipment so the 52nd Fighter Wing is ready to deploy and fight at all

times.

Quality assurance has a long standing "honor roll" program to recognize outstanding performance during these inspections. To qualify as a candidate for the honor roll, people must obtain a 100 percent pass rate on all inspections during the quarter and display personal pride and professionalism essential to fostering quality maintenance. Selected people receive a selection letter from the chief inspector and a Quality Assurance Honor Roll Certificate signed by the operations or logistics group commander.

The maintainers listed below were named to the January through March 2000 honor roll:

22nd Fighter Squadron

Staff Sgts. Jeffrey Bailey, Robert Etters, Michael Kessell, Chad Landt, Mathew Lanew, Edward McClanahan and Daniel Moore; and Senior Airmen Raymond Diazrios and George Livingston.

23rd Fighter Squadron

Staff Sgts. Brian Cheke, Steve Garcia, Bennie Robinson and Richard Robinson; and

Airman 1st Class Robert Ashpole.

81st Fighter Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Derek East; Staff Sgts. John Chapman, Edward Fett, Stephen Fike, Jason Harrell and Alberto Kline; Airman 1st Class Richard Armpriester; and Airman Steven Utz.

52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Tech Sgts. Paul Sights and Andrew Thompson; Staff Sgt. Edward Jackson; Senior Airman William Weir; and Airmen 1st Class Andy Boctor, Jeremy Montgomery and Ryan Popplewell.

52nd Component Repair Squadron

Staff Sgts. John Degelia and Daniel McGovern; and Senior Airmen Robbie Britton, Jeremy Linder and Darren Wilson.

Wing members rack up awards, honors

Compiled from staff reports

Air Force, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, 52nd Fighter Wing and other officials recently announced recent annual individual award winners and achievements in aviation, communications and information, higher education, professional advancement as well as IDEA Program monetary awards.

Here's a look at the winners and their categories:

Communications

■Senior Airman Shannon Hagen, 52nd Communications Squadron, 1999 Air Force Communications and Information Professional of the Year, airman category.

Air Force Academy

■Airman 1st Class Christopher Alexander, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, received a direct appointment to the academy through the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development Program. He was the only U.S. Air Forces in Europe member selected for direct entry into the academy. There were only seven other selected from throughout the Air Force.

AFA Teen Aviation

■Heather Hugen and Chad Thompson, Air Force Junior ROTC cadets at Bitburg High School, were selected to attend the first camp at the U.S. Air Force Academy,

Colorado Springs, Colo. recently. Only four other teens from USAFE were selected. Both are first-year AFJROTC cadets. The camp focuses on skills needed to succeed at the academy.

Aviation award

■Maj. Sonny Blinkinsop, 23rd Fighter Squadron, received the 1999 U.S. Air Force Daedalian Exceptional Pilot Award.

Commissioning

■Senior Airman Jeremy Stover, 606th Air Control Squadron, was selected for the Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program.

AFJROTC Instructor

■Retired Lt. Col. John Hall, AFJROTC senior aerospace science instructor at Bitburg High School, was one of only two selected as one of the Outstanding AFJROTC Instructors of the Year for overseas units.

IDEAs

■Staff Sgt. Samuel McMillian, 52nd Component Repair Squadron, \$600.

■Tech. Sgt. Roy Cline, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, \$600.

■Tech. Sgt. Ernest Donohue, 52nd CRS, \$400.

■Staff Sgt. James Templeton, 52nd EMS, \$200.

■Airman 1st Class Jared Langston, 52nd CRS, \$200.

■Staff Sgt. John Degelia, 52nd CRS, \$200.

■Staff Sgt. Joshua Hall, 52nd EMS, \$600.

■Senior Airman Sean Beckrich, 52nd CRS, \$400.

■Airman 1st Class Larry Molina, 52nd EMS, \$400.

June Yard/Balcony of the Month Spangdahlem, balcony

■Master Sgt. Randy Follensbee, 23rd FS; unit 401-A2

Bitburg, balcony

■Tech. Sgt. Ernest Donohue, 52nd CRS; unit 20-C1

Binsfield, yard

■Lt. Col. Kim Traver, 52nd Civil Engineering Squadron; unit 47

Herforst, yard

■Army Sgt. 1st Class James Shepherd, 81st FS; unit 100

Speicher, yard

■Tech. Sgt. Warren Moore, 52nd SFS; unit 38

ALS Class 00-6 graduates 27 airmen

By Staff Sgt. Mary Snead
Airman Leadership School

Senior Airman Richard Pumphrey Jr. took top honors from among 26 students graduating from Airman Leadership School.

During the graduation ceremony Thursday, the 22nd Fighter Squadron airman received the John Levitow Award and the leadership award.

Distinguished graduate honors went to Senior Airmen Michael Barborak, 52nd Communications Squadron operating location Kester, Belgium, and Jason Chaffin, 81st Fighter Squadron. Chaffin also earned the academic achievement award.

Remaining graduates of Class 00-6 were senior airmen:

Eagle flight

Stephen Burrows, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron; Jose Castilleja III, 22nd FS; Michael Davault, 52nd CES; Paul Dubovik, 23rd Fighter Squadron; Jonathan Fortenberry, 52nd CS OLA Kester; Eric Johnson, 52nd Security Forces Squadron; Charles Mason, 752nd Munitions Support Squadron, Volkel Air Base, the Netherlands; Tanya Owen, 52nd Medical Group; Marcelino Pastranalopez, 52nd Communications Squadron; Scott Plocar, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron; Eric Ross, 52nd Munitions Support Squadron, Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium; and Daniel Williams, 52nd EMS.

Falcon flight

Sean Owens, 52nd EMS, class leader; Kelly Stopfel, 606th Air Control Squadron, flight leader; Robert Adams III, 22nd FS; Darren Bradley, 23rd FS; Ian Davis, 52nd Component Repair Squadron; Michael Dignan, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Belgium; Aaron Dominick, 23rd FS; Christopher Walton, 23rd FS; Keith Ransen, 52nd Supply Squadron; Donald Turner II, 52nd CS; and Jacques Samedy, 52nd Mission Support Squadron.

Avoid post office blues by knowing rules

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

People who improperly use military postal services, including post office and mail boxes, risk losing their base postal privileges.

To avoid such problems, first check with a postal customer service representative or visit the U.S. Postal Service Web site at www.usps.gov to check regulations before mailing packages or letters.

Remember

An offshoot of the U.S. postal service, military post offices fall under U.S. and military postal regulations. Under these regulations, certain items are deemed off-limits to mailing.

"A common problem we experience is people wanting to mail wine or beer to the states," said Tech. Sgt. David Ledo, Spangdahlem Air Base assistant postmaster. "Mailing alcohol or rationed items is against regulations."

Batteries are also off-limits for safety concerns. Batteries may spark from the pressure inside the cargo bay of an aircraft and burst or explode, causing damage to other packages, Ledo said.

It's also a good idea to pack items that make sounds, such as wind-up toys, so they remain silent during shipping to avoid unnecessary delays.

"When I was stationed in Korea, we had an incident where a toy car in a package made noises after being jostled

around during shipping," Ledo said. "Because we didn't know what the noise was or where it was coming from, the post office was closed until security forces scoured the place to make sure it wasn't anything harmful."

Not for business

It's also unlawful to use a post office box for personal business use, Ledo said. This includes any venture to gain a profit. Shipping cosmetics or kitchenwares, for example, in connection with a home business is against U.S. and military postal regulations.

Read the business mail rules by visiting the postal service Web site "Business 101" link. This site also offers small business advice.

It's also unlawful to advertise on base or distribute unsolicited mail without the installation commander's permission. All items placed in a mailbox must have proper postage or endorsements, according to regulation.

Quicker lines

To help post office lines move quicker, keep in mind package size is limited. Priority mail has a 70-pound maximum and must not exceed 108 inches in height, length or width. Such packages are handled differently than regularly shipped items and cost extra as a result, Ledo said.

Also, all packages shipped overseas need a customs declaration listing package contents. Customs declaration forms are available in the lobby and can be filled out in

advance.

Other ways to help include properly boxing, labeling and addressing packages. Use a sturdy container with plenty of packing material to prevent content breakage.

"I've learned you really need to pack items well to make sure they'll get there in one piece," Ledo said. "Packaging is also considered when an insurance claim is being processed."

Courtesy Service

People moving from the local area can help the base post office cut down on unclaimed mail by sending change of address cards to catalog companies that may have them on their mailing list. Unclaimed catalogs and junk mail take up post office space and are thrown away after a certain amount of time.

Members going on a temporary duty assignment or on vacation can help avoid overstuffed post office boxes by requesting the mail be held until their return. Another option is for those going TDY to request mail to be forwarded to the temporary location.

One of the conveniences Spangdahlem and Bitburg offer is a base post office. These facilities offer post office boxes, U.S. postal rates and many of the services offered by U.S. postal services for the military family's convenience.

"We need to remember that having a base post office box is a privilege, not a right. Following the rules and regulations is mandatory, not an option," Ledo said.



Staff Sgt. Angela Stafford

Honoring with service

Conner Sneed, son of Air Force Reserve Senior Master Sgt. Bill Sneed (left) helps wash The Vietnam Wall on a recent Sunday in Washington D.C. To honor fallen heroes, Air Force reservists and their families from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., washed the Vietnam Wall and Korean War memorials. The monuments are cleaned every weekend during the warmer months.

Air Force looks to future with air, space integration

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Aerospace integration is part of the Air Force space competencies, to become a full spectrum aerospace force, said Brig. Gen. John L. Barry, strategic planning director, deputy chief of staff for plans and programs, Headquarters Air Force.

The aerospace continuum defines the domain in which the Air Force will operate, Barry said. "Aerospace Integration addresses how (the Air Force) can best combine the unique capabilities that (it possesses) in air and space to become the most efficient and effective aerospace force it can."

By becoming a full spectrum aerospace force the general explained, "We remain loyal to our core purpose as a military institution — to be a force that enhances our nation's joint warfighting capabilities and continues to guarantee the security of the United States."

There will be challenges on the journey to becoming a full spectrum aerospace force, according to Barry.

"This will be a cultural adjustment," he said. "As we become more dependent on space, it will have to become a larger part of how we fight our wars. There will be some cultural biases and 'tribal' mentalities within our Air Force that we must work on to become a more unified team."

The Air Force is expanding its emphasis on aerospace integration education to existing professional military training for both officers and enlisted members, Barry said. It is even working to foster an increased understanding of aerospace integration among its newest troops in basic military training.

There are some challenges in meeting the obligations of using space in the defense of this country where the Air Force is fiscally constrained in some areas, he said.

The challenges of aerospace integration are being met with careful planning, decisive action, strong leadership and individual commitment, Barry said. However, the journey to a full spectrum aerospace force still requires the support of the entire Air Force family.

"It is sometimes hard to understand the time and place in which you are currently sitting, but with the bright future the Air Force has for aerospace integration, it is an incredibly exciting time to be part of the Air Force. This is history in the making."

'Best Value Item' eases bargain hunting

By Bonnie Powell
DeCA Public Affairs

The best prices began last weekend and people can walk into their commissary and find a variety of products marked with "Best Value Item" signs.

If it's marked Best Value Item, the price beats any other brand on the commissary shelf or any brand at the local grocery store.

The Defense Commissary Agency is making the job of bargain hunting easier for military shoppers and the agency is putting a massive effort into making sure military shoppers get the best prices on products ranging from snacks to paper goods.

"Our customers have earned their benefit and we're going to make sure they are getting the best prices through this program," said Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr., DeCA director.

The Best Value Item, or BVI, program began in commissaries worldwide Saturday with about 100 items in popular sizes. Courter said he expects that number to escalate well into the hundreds.

"The BVI list for European commissaries may vary from the stateside list because our stock assortment is smaller," said Mike Yaksich, DeCA Europe's merchandising chief. "European shoppers will still benefit just as much, though, because we will supplement the stateside list with other BVIs carried in our European assortment."

" . . . We want every customer to understand that products marked as 'Best Value Items' are indeed the best prices. Period.

*Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr.,
DeCA director*

The program applies to approximately 40 grocery categories within the store, to include frozen food, paper products, diapers, detergents and beverages to name just a few.

Commissary customers entering the store Saturday definitely got the idea that something special was afoot. A poster greeted them at the door and flyers explaining the program were handed out. Shelf signs will point the way to BVIs and store employees are ready to answer customer questions. Simply put, a Best Value Item sign means that product has been identified as the best price available on grocery shelves anywhere.

The program responds to customer demand for more

price savings. The commissary system is making an effort to encourage single shoppers, military families and retirees on fixed incomes to take greater advantage of their benefit.

Commissary store directors will be working hard to make sure military shoppers get the best prices without the hassle of having to research prices at the commissary — or at stores outside the gate.

DeCA has identified popular products and sizes to kick off the program, but shoppers can expect to see changes in the products marked as BVIs every time they shop. Chill products will be added this summer according to DeCA officials. And today's BVI might not be tomorrow's. Product selection and variety will change rapidly in a continuing effort to drive commissary prices down even further.

The Best Value Item program is not just "another" commissary promotion. As the Best Value Item program evolves, customers will also get more help in spotting BVIs. This fall, flashing shelf lights will point the way to value on commissary shelves. Best Value Items will be hard to miss.

"Make no mistake," Courter said, "this is an ongoing program that has the commitment of the entire agency behind it. We want every customer to understand that products marked as 'Best Value Items' are indeed the best prices. Period."

Food sales listed online

Commissary Web site offers shopping options, info

By Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

FORT LEE, Va. — A relatively new (fall 1999) commissaries.com offers just about any information people could be looking for about their local commissary in one central site.

Links take site visitors to any commissary store in the system, including both the Spangdahlem and Bitburg stores. Individual store sites have a wealth of information about what's available in the local store.

There's basic information such as store hours, directions to the store, which credit cards the store accepts and the store manager's e-mail address.

The sites also have space for the local managers to personalize and bring attention to any special features their stores offer.

For instance, the Bitburg store offers a new feature where people can special order live lobster, fresh fish, crab and shellfish. The commissary on Spangdahlem announces it received vidalia onions.

The great thing about these individual sites is the individual store managers edit them — not someone in the Defense Commissary Agency headquarters at Fort Lee, Texas. This allows the stores to put up more personalized information about their features and allows them to make changes instantly.

Besides information on individual stores, the site has a number of helpful

**Visit commissaries.com
to get information
on this week's sales,
make special orders
or look up store hours.**

features.

Perhaps the most useful is a listing of sale items for the current week. Law prohibits commissaries from advertising their prices outside the stores, but this site lists sales by the percentage off the regular price.

The site lists nearly 200 sale items, which might be a valuable resource to use in planning a shopping list or menus for the week. The sale items are broken down into convenient categories, making navigating the long list fairly easy.

Other useful pages on the site explain the history of the commissary system, how much commissary users can expect to save over civilian grocery stores, and what the 5 percent surcharge is used for.

As a service to customers, the site also includes links to nearly 30 free recipe sites, 40 other government sites, and several grocery, food safety and small business sites. (Air Force Print News)



Community Mailbox

On tap at the FSC

All of the following classes and seminars take place in the family support center, building 2001 on Bitburg, unless otherwise indicated. For more information or to register, call 452-7491.

■ Transition Assistance Seminar, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 14.

■ German class, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in building 131 on Bitburg.

■ Veterans benefits seminar, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Thursday.

■ Spouses orientation, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 14.

Religious music service

"Rockin' with the Cross," a contemporary Christian music service, takes place at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Bitburg chapel. Sponsored by the contemporary Protestant worship service, all denominations are invited to attend.

For more information, call Rob Britton at 06565-944332.

Lost items at school

Bitburg Middle School still has a large amount of unclaimed lost and found items for the recent school year. School officials said these items will be available for pick-up at the school Monday through July 14. Any unclaimed items will be donated to the Airmen's Attic.

Cookout

The Saber Club holds a summer cookout at 11 a.m. July 18 in front of building 121. Menu choices include barbecue ribs, chicken, baked beans and iced tea for \$6.

A free wine tasting also takes place.

Cub Scouts camp

The Barbarossa District Cub Scouts hold summer camp at Priest Sports Platz 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily July 17-21. Webelos hold an additional overnight July 21.

Cost is \$45 for Scouts and \$52 for non-scouts.

The camp theme is medieval.

Buses leave the Bitburg commissary parking lot at 7:15 a.m.; Speicher government leased housing (first bus stop), 7:45 a.m.; Spangdahlem housing office bus stop, 7:15 a.m.; Binsfeld government leased housing bus stop, 7:30 a.m.; and the Herforst government leased housing bus stop, 7:45 a.m.

The Trading Post, open during the lunch hours each day, only accept dollars and checks.

For more details or to volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Chris Clements, program director, at 452-6019.

Christmas in July

Children ages 3-10 and their families are invited to "Christmas in July" 5-7 p.m. July 23 in the Trinity Baptist Church in Metterich.

Events include caroling, games, cooking and making and crafts.

While admission is free, families are asked to bring a Christmas gift donation of school supplies for the Prague, Czech Republic, seminary.

For more information, call Pastor Jim Wootton at 06565-2336.

Food booths

Units, groups and individuals operating a temporary food



Tech. Sgt. Scott Gilbert

Zoo babies

Parents and their children enjoy a day at the Koln Zoo sponsored by the Key Spouse Program and the Family Support Center. The deployed spouses program offers free transportation and some entry fees to local-area trips and events designed to help spouses meet other people and enjoy their stay in Europe. The program is looking for more participants and is accepting suggestions on desired places to visit. For more information about the deployed spouses program, call Tech. Sgt. Gilbert at 452-6422.

booth or providing a temporary food service must comply with the following guidance per Air Force instruction:

■ Get 52nd Services Squadron approval.

■ Visit public health in building 175 at least five days before the event.

For more information, call Airman Angela Cody at 452-8308 or 8338.

School summer hours

Families new to the local community are invited to register their children 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. daily during the summer with the Spangdahlem Elementary School.

Call 452-6881 for details.

Instructor wanted

The Wing Software Training section needs knowledgeable instructors to teach Microsoft Access, Excel, PowerPoint, Word and Outlook.

Military, civilian and German national employees are eligible to apply by calling 452-58384 or e-mail to 52fw.wingsoftwaretraining@spangdahlem.af.mil.

Public speaking

The Spangdahlem Toastmasters Club offers guidance on improving communication skills.

For more information, call Ralph Jones at 480-7379 or Bonita Gamble at 452-5801 for details.

Retiree Activities Office

The Retiree Activities Office is now open 4-8:30 p.m. Friday in building 23. The office acts as liaison between active-duty and retired Air Force members.

Call retired Tech. Sgt. Gary Hackl at 452-4248 or 4020, or email gary.hackl@spangdahlem.af.mil for details or volunteer opportunities.

Thrift shop hours

The Penny Lane Thrift Shop extends its hours for the first Saturday of every month. The new hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month.

For details, call Ela Payne at 06565-4514.

Directors wanted

ACT-Eifel needs directors and assistant directors for the upcoming theater season. Tentative play dates are September and December 2000, and March and May 2001. For details, call Robert Benton at 452-5444, Robert Onsgard at 452-6058 or Anna Stachowski at 452-6884.

Volunteers

The American Red Cross needs volunteers to work with children, help in the hospital, become CPR instructors, work in the vet clinic or become case workers. In addition, there are also leadership positions vacant in publicity and fund raising. Other advisory board positions open include health and safety, youth, records and station chair. The ARC offers volunteers child care reimbursement.

For more information, call 453-6740.

Bunny Club

The Bunny Club children's playgroup now meets 10 a.m. to noon, instead of 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesday in building 173, next to the chapel, on Bitburg.

For details, call Dr. Suzanne Furman at 452-8279.

Tiny Toes

Tiny Toes, a Bitburg group for mothers with children under 1 year old, meets at 11 a.m. Monday.

For details, call Glennda Sutton at 06561-941978.

Education center news

■ Commissioning briefings take place at 2 p.m. the first Thursday of each month in the education center, building 192, Room 2.

■ Applicants currently working on Officer's Training School packages must submit them to the education center by today.

■ Applications for the Scholarship for Outstanding Airman to ROTC program are due to U.S. Air Forces in Europe by Oct. 15.

■ Walk-in education counseling services are available 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday.

For details, call the center at 452-6063.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Bitburg Castle

Today
Erin Brockovich (R)

With no money and no job Erin pleads with her attorney Ed to hire her at his law firm. It is there that Erin stumbles upon some medical records, where she discovers a cover-up involving contaminated water in a local community which is causing devastating illnesses among its residents. Erin and Ed go on to receive the largest settlement ever paid in a direct-action lawsuit in U.S. history... \$333 million. Language.

Saturday
Erin Brockovich

Sunday
Erin Brockovich

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday
Price of Glory (PG-13)

Arturo Ortega lost his fighting edge early in his prize fighting career. Now 13 years later, he trains his three boys to take him back to the top. What Ortega seems to forget is the boxing world is full of corruption, blood and honor. Can he help one of his boys reach the goal that eluded him? Violence, language and brief drug content.

Thursday
Where the Money is (PG-13)

Henry has come up with a new way to break out of prison: fake a stroke and get transferred to a nursing home. It's a perfect plan, except for one thing: the woman assigned to take care of him, Carol, has a plan of her own, she wants him to teach her, his old line of work, and then join her and her husband Wayne in a robbery of their own. But Henry has learned not to let his guard down, even for a minute. Some sexual content.

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today
Big Momma's House (R)

When an undercover cop (Lawrence) is sent to Georgia to protect a single mother and her son, he adopts the identity of a crass heavy-set Southern grandmother known as "Big Momma."

Saturday
Big Momma's House

Sunday
Road to El Dorado (PG)

Two con-men get hold of a map to the lost City of Gold, El Dorado. After stowing away onto one of the ships of the Spanish explorer Cortes, the pair escapes and eventually do find the city. There, priest proclaims them to be gods in a scheme to win control of the city for himself. Meanwhile, they meet a beautiful girl who helps them in their race. Animated. Mild thematic material and language.

Monday
Keeping the Faith (PG-13)

Best friends since they were kids, Rabbi Jacob and Father Brian are dynamic and popular young men living and working on New York's Upper West Side. When Anna, once their childhood friend, suddenly returns to the city, she re-enters their lives and hearts with a vengeance. Sparks fly and an unusual and complicated love triangle ensues. Some sexuality and language.

Tuesday
Rules of Engagement (R)

Two Vietnam veterans are reunited when one asks the other to defend him against court-martial for ordering his troops to fire on civilians during a storming of an U.S. Embassy. The two men were separated when the lawyer was injured in Vietnam, forcing him out of the military, despite an intense desire to be a career officer. Now, to help the man who helped him, he is ready to take on the military in court. War violence and language.

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 453-7541.

Experience cultural traditions at Folklore-Festival in Bitburg

More than 13 cultures share their art, music, dances and customs

By Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Local residents can experience a gammut of European culture in one spot this weekend.

More than 30 groups from 15 different countries meet in Bitburg tonight presenting traditional dances and music of their countries throughout the city streets.

More than 50,000 visitors are expected to arrive from Germany and other European countries.

Activities start 8 p.m. tonight as the Rocco & California Band performs music in the festival tent. Music by the Koelschrock-Band Luxus follows.

Things really get going Saturday with music and dancing performances taking place between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Petersplatz.

A children's folks festival takes place between 3 and 5 p.m. in the festival tent.

Starting at 8 p.m., all 31 folk groups from 10 European countries, Thailand, Puerto Rico and the U.S. will march into the tent and assemble for dancing performances. This part of the festival also includes American participation. People must arrive early to find good seating. There's an entry fee for this event.

Activities continue 11 a.m. Sunday with an early morning concert, European Brunch and folk dancing taking place on stage in the tent. Call 06561-9683-30 for brunch reservations. Cost is 28 DM for adults, less for children.



Courtesy photo

Festival participants parade through downtown Bitburg in celebration of the event.

Folk dances and music continue at 4 p.m. inside the tent. Musical entertainment, including dance music starts at 8 p.m.

The European Folk Festival highlight is a parade of all its participants through Bitburg. The parade starts 2:30 p.m. Roads will be blocked off for traffic and a small entry fee is usually charged. Arrive early to find parking.

Monday, the last day of the event, features more dances and entertainment between 4:30 and 6 p.m. on Peterspalz. A folk dancing farewell night starts at 9 p.m. in the tent lasting through midnight.

A large amusement park will be set up for the festival. Family members receive reduced fares, Monday, during "Family Day."

For the first time, the Bitburg European Folk Festival also offers a special handicraft market on Trierer Street, starting at 10 a.m. daily.

Hot air balloon rides can also be reserved by calling 06592-985465. Rides are scheduled Friday through Monday, at 6 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Cost is 300 DM per person.

Entertainment takes place in many areas of town, mainly in front of the Beda Platz near the county administration building on Trierer Strasse and on Petersplatz.

The event and a great opportunity to get photos of people in colorful traditional costumes.



■ Look into the future at the world exposition in Hanover — EXPO 2000 — through October 31. More information will appear in a future issue of the Eifel Times.

■ Enjoy the 1,000-kilometer Le Mans race Saturday and Sunday at the Nuerburgring race track.

■ Roads between Kyllburg and Gerolstein close to all traffic except bicyclists, in-line skaters and walkers 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 16. The event, similar to the Happy Mosel, is called Kylltal Aktiv.

■ Learn about the history of the Titanic at the Bitburg Beda Haus cultural center through Aug. 5. The display is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Cost is 9 DM for adults and 7 DM for children. More information about this mobile exhibition is available at www.titanic-online.de.

■ Plan to attend the Trier Zurlauben Mosel festival today through Monday along the Mosel shore, complete with a fire works display, food and entertainment.

■ Plan to see the colorful Carnival des Cultures Saturday in Luxembourg city.

■ The Love Parade takes place Saturday in Berlin. In conjunction with the parade there will be a three-day techno festival with the theme Paradise

City. The Deutsche Bundesbahn rail offers a round-trip ticket to the event for 69 DM per person. Stop by the Speicher or Erdorf train stations for details.

■ Travel with five people for one day throughout the entire state of Rheinland-Pfalz for 35 DM. Stop by a local train station for more information about this pass.

■ The annual Bitburg European Folk festival takes place today through Monday on Beda Platz and throughout the center of the city. More than 15 different countries will take part in this year's event. More information about the festival will be printed in a future issue of the Eifel Times.

■ Enjoy a trip to the Czech Republic July 14-16. The cost is \$60 for a single seat and \$80 for a double. The deadline to register and pay is July 7. Participants must bring a U.S. Passport or a Czech Republic Visa. Departure will be from both commissary locations. For more information or to register, call Michelle Whitley at 06561-670581 or Marva Trisvan at 06371-47-6178 or 480-6178.

July tours through ITT. For details, call the Eifel East community center at 452-6567 or the Eifel West community center at 453-7120.

■ EXPO 2000 Hanover, Saturday and Sunday, from \$185 for adults, children sharing with two adults

receive a discount.

■ Heidelberg city and castle, Saturday, \$30 for adults, \$29 for children ages 3-12.

■ Rhein cruise, Sunday, \$39 for adults, \$29 for children ages 3-12.

■ Prague city and shopping express, July 14-15, \$75 single seat, \$95 for double.

■ North Sea Jazz Fest, two overnights in Den Haag, July 14-16, \$450 per person.

■ North Sea Jazz Fest, two overnights in Leiden, July 14-16, \$395 per person.

■ Paris delight, July 15-16, \$185 for adults, \$130 for children ages 3-12 sharing with two adults.

■ Movieworld, July 16, \$55 for adults, \$50 for children ages 3-12.

■ Belgian Grottoes and Safari Park, July 22, \$45 for adults, \$35 for children ages 3-12.

■ Cochem Castle tour and medieval dinner, July 22, \$65 per person.

■ Disneyland Paris, July 22, \$95 for adults, \$85 for children ages 3-11.

■ Eifel castles, July 23, \$35 for adults, \$30 for children ages 4-17.



■ Mosel cruise, dinner and wine tasting, July 29, \$48 per person.

■ Paris express, July 29, \$89 for adults, \$75 for children ages 3-17.

■ Brussels, July 29, \$39 for adults, \$35 for children ages 3-12.

■ Köln Zoo and Aquarium, July 30, \$30 for adults, \$25 for children ages 4-17.

The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trips in July. For details, call 452-7176.

■ Luxembourg cave rappelling Saturday. After a short introduction to rappelling, the cave exploration begins with a 50-foot rappel down into the mouth of a cave followed by another 20-foot descent once inside. The trip finishes with a visit to Echternach. Transportation, gear, instruction and a guide are included in the \$30 per person price. Minimum age is 12.

■ Luxembourg City bike tour July 15. Bike around the city and visit the old wall fortifications, forts and interior parks. The trip includes a tour of the underground casemates or "tunnels of the city" built centuries ago. Cost is \$35 per person with bike rental or \$30 without. Minimum age is 14.